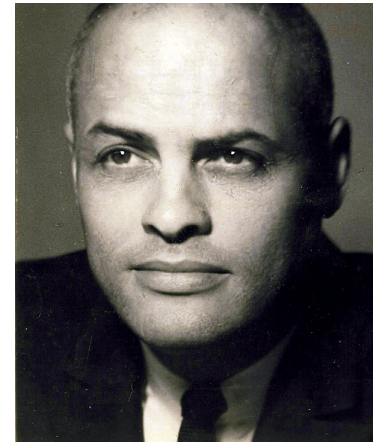


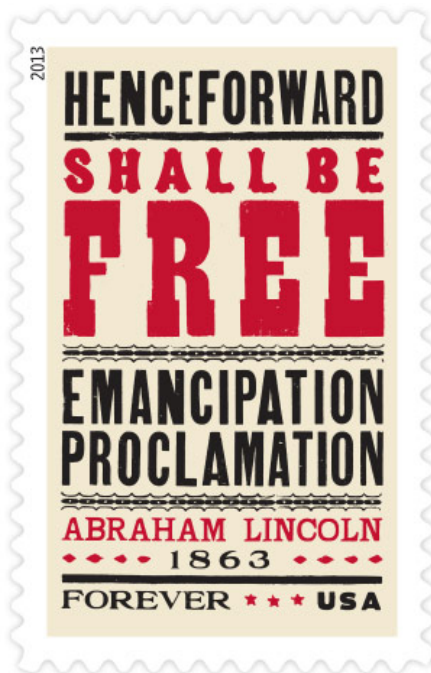
Emancipation Proclamation



The first U.S. postage stamp designed by a Black artist was placed on sale on Aug. 16, 1963. Graphic artist Georg Olden featured a broken chain on the stamp to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation.



With this 2013 stamp, the U.S. Postal Service commemorates the 150th anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation, which President Abraham Lincoln signed on January 1, 1863. Lincoln's proclamation, issued nearly two years into the Civil War, declared that all slaves in the rebel states of the Confederacy "are, and henceforward shall be free."



The stamp art uses that powerful statement, "Henceforward Shall Be Free," on a design evocative of broadsides from the Civil War era.

Lincoln believed the Emancipation Proclamation, potentially applying to several million African-American slaves in the South, was the "central act of my administration, and the great event of the nineteenth century." According to many historians, only the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States have had as great an impact on human life and liberty for so many.

One provision of the proclamation authorized enlisting African Americans in the Union army. Some 180,000 blacks subsequently joined the army, and nearly 40,000 gave their lives fighting for freedom.

Art director Antonio Alcalá worked with graphic designer Gail Anderson to produce this important commemorative stamp, one of a civil rights set being issued in 2013.

Slavery in America began when the first African slaves were brought to the North American colony of Jamestown, Virginia, in 1619, to aid in the production of such lucrative crops as tobacco. Slavery was



practiced throughout the American colonies in the 17th and 18th centuries, and African-American slaves helped build the economic foundations of the new nation. The invention of the cotton gin in 1793 solidified the central importance of slavery to the South's economy. By the mid-19th century, America's westward expansion, along with a growing abolition movement in the North, would provoke a great debate over slavery that would tear the nation apart in the bloody American Civil War (1861-65). Though the Union victory freed the nation's 4 million slaves, the legacy of slavery continued to influence American history, from the tumultuous years of Reconstruction (1865-77) to the civil rights movement that emerged in the 1960s, a century after

emancipation.